

## A NEW SNAKE FROM BURMA

BY

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Among a collection of snakes from Huton, Kachin Hills (4,500 feet) aggregating 79 specimens, received recently through the kindness of the Rev. Father Gilhodes, I find three specimens of a species of *Rhabdophis* hitherto undescribed, which I propose to designate.

*Rhabdophis speciosus* sp. nov.:

TYPE. ♂. 805 mm. (2 feet, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches), the tail 218 mm. (8 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches).

GENERAL CHARACTERS. Snout, moderately declivous, moderately narrowed. Nostril, moderate, situated in both nasals, and occupying the 2nd and 3rd fifths of the nasal suture. Eye, large, its diameter equals its distance to the anterior edge of the nostril. Pupil round. Neck, moderately contracted. Body, moderately robust, cylindrical. Tail, rather long.

LEPIDOSIS. *Rostral*—Rostro-nasal sutures rather longer than the rostro-internasals; portion visible above about half the suture between the internasals. *Internasals*, two; the anterior border about two-thirds the length of the posterior border; the suture between them a shade less than that between the praefrontals. *Praefrontals*, a pair. *Frontal*, a shade longer than the snout. *Nasals*, two. *Loreal*, about three-fifths the length of the nasals. *Præocular*, one. *Postoculars*, three. *Temporals*, two anterior. *Supralabials*, eight; the 1st and 2nd touching the nasals, 4th and 5th the eye, and the 6th and 7th the anterior temporals. *Sublinguals*, two pairs, the posterior rather longer than the anterior, separated by three azygos and a pair of scales, behind which is the narrow first ventral. *Infralabials*, the 5th, 6th and 7th touch the posterior sublinguals. *Costals*, in 17 rows two head-lengths behind the head, 19 at midbody, 17 two heads-lengths before the vent. About three heads-lengths behind the head a new row of scales appears on each side of the vertebrae. The rows remain 19 to about four or five head-lengths behind midbody when the fourth row above the ventrals disappears. Keels present in all rows at midbody. Apical facets in pairs, very distinct. Apical emargination present. The scales of the vertebral row are about half as broad as their length, and half the breadth of those in the ultimate row. The scales in the ultimate row are not quite as broad as long. *Ventrals*, 166, the two first narrow. *Anal*, divided. *Subcaudals*, 87, paired.

COLOUR. Dull olive-green dorsally, with a series of closely set; vertical pale spots on the 4th and 5th rows above the ventrals, continued well down the tail. A fairly distinct chequering of blackish and ochraceous yellow spots in the anterior part of the body, and a bright ochraceous bar across the occiput, a little behind the parietal shields. Belly dirty whitish, peppered with black and grey spots, denser on the basal parts of the ventral and subcaudal shields, and in the posterior part of the body. Anteriorly this peppering is chiefly lateral. Head olive-brown above merging to dirty white on the lip. The posterior edges of the supralabials dark; black and conspicuous on the 5th and 6th of the series. Lower lips and sublingual region palest buff, immaculate.

DENTITION. From specimen No. 3. *Maxilla*, carries 29 teeth. Diacranterian. The praecranterian 27, anododont, isodont. Cranterian 2, obliquely set and fully twice the length of the preceding. The praecranterian space would accommodate one tooth. *Palatine*, 19 left, 20 right; anododont, isodont, not quite so long as the maxilla. *Pterygoid*, 26 left, 27 right; anododont, isodont; about as long as the palatine. *Mandibular*, 31 left, 32 (33?) right; anododont, kumatodont; the median as long as the maxillary.

REMARKS. Specimens 2 and 3 agree with the type except that the ventrals number ♂ 168, ♀ 167; and the subcaudals ♂ 86, ♀ 87. The number of costal rows anteriorly is very unusual for a species of this genus. Specimen 2 is a ♂ 710 mm. (2 feet, 4 inches) long, the tail 188 mm. (7 inches). Specimen 3 is a ♀ 622 mm. (2 feet and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch) long, the tail 168 mm. (6 inches).